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CLASSIFICATION

SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from the Koethen-Dessau-Wiesenburg Training Area

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

21 November 1952

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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CIRCULATE

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1. On 17 October 1952, a troop train loaded at the Belzig (N 53/4 30) railroad station carried about 80 trucks, 2 rocket launchers, 2 amphibious cars and truck. Another troop 30 trucks and 1 tank truck,

8 trucks each towing a 57-mm AT gun, another 8 trucks each towing a 57-mm AT gun and 8 trucks each towing a 100-mm AT gun were seen on the road to the loading ramp.⁴ At 2:30 p.m. on the same day, about 80 trucks and 4 jeeps were entrained at the Wiesenburg (N 53/4 20) railroad station; while 8 trucks, 14 armored personnel carriers and 6 x 57-mm AT guns were loaded at the Medewitz railroad station. A flatcar carrying truck was coupled to a train which came from Wiesenburg and carried 18 trucks, 6 van-like trucks,

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2. On 16 October, the following number of empty railroad cars was assembled at the stations mentioned: 60 converted boxcars and 20 flatcars at Wiesenburg; 30 converted boxcars and 30 flatcars at Michendorf; and 40 converted boxcars and 30 flatcars at Rehbruecke. several troop trains went from Dessau in the direction of Magdeburg in the night of 15 October.¹
3. The Bernburg (N 52/D 76) - Koethen (N 52/D 95) road was blocked on 8 October. Numerous columns and troop bivouacs were seen in the area of the autobahn exit Dessau-Sued-Forst Haldeburg south of Dessau and on the Highway No 104. Numerous motor vehicles were seen on the Dessau-Zerbst road. At about 3:30 p.m. on 9 October, intensive air activity by ground attack aircraft in formations of 2 and 36, all headed westward, was observed in Dessau. At 4 p.m. on the same day, 50 trucks and 10 AT guns were seen in the Haldeburg Forest, while 4 x 57-mm AT guns pointing southwest were emplaced on the southern edge of the forest. Motor vehicles towing AT guns were seen on the autobahn near Schkeuditz (N 52/D 17) proceeding northward. Between 7:50 and 11 a.m. on 14 October, intensive noise of battle by infantry and artillery was heard west of Rodleben (N 52/D 07). The Rossau-Zerbst road was blocked near

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Tornau. Police stated that an engineer exercise took place at the Elbe River. Empty troop trains seen in the morning hours on the same day included 4 in Zerbst, 2 in Gueterglueck, 2 in Luebs and 1 in Proedel.¹

4. During the period from 6 to 9 October, the following troop movements were observed in the Dessau area;

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6 October. At 5:40 p.m., a troop train carrying 10 boxcarloads of troops, numerous trucks

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and 10 prime movers towing 122-mm guns, was unloaded at the Dessau-Rosslau freight station.⁴

At 5:25 p.m., a troop train carrying 10 JS tanks and an undetermined number of trucks passed through the Rosslau railroad station, proceeding in the direction of Wittenberg. The cupolas of the tanks and the cabs of the trucks had a white stripe.

7 October. A troop train carrying 10 x 122-mm guns and a small number of trucks stood at the Rosslau railroad station at 4:30 p.m. At 4:55 p.m., a troop train carrying trucks

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was seen at the Dessau freight station.²

8 October. A troop train carrying 6 rocket launchers and a small number of trucks was seen at the Dessau freight station.

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At noon, a troop train consisting of 6 boxcars and an undetermined number of flatcars carrying numerous trucks

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stood at the Rosslau freight station.³

At 6 p.m., a troop train carrying AT guns of about 55-mm caliber and numerous trucks was seen standing at the Jessnitz (N 52/U 15) railroad station. A train with a similar load was observed being unloaded on 9 October.

At 6 p.m., numerous trucks were unloaded at the Maguhn (N 52/U 15) railroad station.

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9 October. At 5:30 a.m., trucks and heavy AT guns were unloaded from troop trains at the Maguhn railroad station. troop trains were unloaded day and night in the Jessnitz-Maguhn area.⁴

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1. Comment. Loading operations in the Bolzig-Wiesenburg area started after the termination of the exercises of the Eighth Gds Army on 15 October 1952. a rocket launcher unit of the Eighth Gds Army and a shipment of the Hq XXVIII Gds Mtz Rifle Corps.

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2. Comment. a shipment of the 30th (?) Army Artillery Bn of the Eighth Gds Army.

3. These loading operations, presumably of the 57th Gds Mtz Rifle Div or corps troops of the XXIX Gds Mtz Rifle Corps, are confirmed by information on numerous troop trains which went from the Wiesenburg area to the west of the units mentioned on 17 October.

4. Comment. a unit of the 6th Arty Div was detained.

5. Comment. A shipment of the 172d Gds How Arty Regt of the 20th Gds Mocz Div went from Grawinkel to Wiesenburg on 7 October.

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6.

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Comment. Four shipments of the 21st Gds Mecz Div arrived in Raguhn on 8 and 9 October.

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